

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 4 has been made a proper independent claim. In addition, claims 5, 8 and 11 have been cancelled, while claims 1, 6 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claims 5, 8 and 11, respectively.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,386,478 to Plunkett. The Examiner has further rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plunkett in view of U.S. Patent 6,069,567 to Zawilski. Applicant acknowledges the allowability of claim 4, and in view of the above changes, submits that claim 4 should now be allowed.

The Plunkett patent discloses a sound system remote control with acoustic sensor which performs an automatic adjustment of a stereophonic system for optimal sound quality as perceived at a particular listening location. To that end, the Plunkett remote control includes transmitting means for transmitting data to the receiver via an IR control link, a microphone for picking up a special test signal generated from the loudspeakers, and a command module responsive to the remote control unit for adjusting parameters of the stereophonic system in response to information

transmitted from the remote control responding to the special test signal from the loudspeakers as picked up by the microphone.

The subject invention, as claimed in claims 1, 6 and 9, discloses a remote control apparatus, a receiver for cooperating with the remote control apparatus, and a system including the remote control apparatus and the receiver, which operate substantially similar to the Plunkett system. However, the remote control apparatus of the subject invention further includes: "receiving means, separate from said at least one microphone, for receiving data from said receiver, said data received by said receiving means from said receiver being referred while the state of said receiver is calculated by said arithmetic operating means". Similarly, the receiver of the subject invention further includes: "transmitting means, separate from said multi-channel sound outputting, for transmitting data to said remote control apparatus, said data being required for calculation in said remote control apparatus". With these added features, the receiver and the remote control apparatus together are able to transmit and receive data to and from each other to perform the adjustments, and thus making it possible to accomplish finer and more exact adjustments through such bi-directional communications between the receiver and the remote control apparatus. In particular, it is possible for the receiver to send the data required for the calculation to be performed at the remote control apparatus through the communication

with the remote control apparatus. Furthermore, due to the bi-directional communication, it becomes possible to display such information as adjustment progress status, components to be adjusted and adjustment completion event not only on the display portion of the receiver or the TV screen (on-screen display) that is to be connected to the receiver, but also on the display portion of the remote control apparatus near the user. This is disclosed in the Substitute Specification on page 17, line 23 to page 19, line 13 (paragraphs [0051]-[0056]).

The Examiner has stated "Plunkett discloses a variable time delay module that automatically adjust to introduce a corrective time delay equal to a difference in audio propagation time between acoustic paths from corresponding ones of the loudspeaker and the microphone (i.e. receiving means for receiving data from said receiver, data received by said receiving means from said receiver is being referred while the state of said receiver is calculated)."

Applicant submits the limitations in claims 1, 6 and 9 clearly states that the receiving means in the remote control apparatus is separate from the at least one microphone, and the transmitting means in the receiver is separate from the multi-channel sound outputting. This is clearly shown in the embodiment of Fig. 4 where the receiver 100 includes transmitting portion 104 for transmitting data to the remote control apparatus 300, and the

remote control apparatus 300 includes a receiving portion 305 for receiving the data from the receiver 100.


Applicant submits that Plunkett neither shows nor suggests that the receiver has a transmitting portion for transmitting data to the remote control apparatus, and that the remote control apparatus has a receiving portion for receiving data transmitted from the receiver.

The Zawilski patent discloses an audio-recording remote control and method therefor, in which a remote control unit includes two microphones for enhancing the capturing of audio information. However, Applicant submits that Zawilski does not supply that which is missing from Plunkett, i.e., that the receiver has a transmitting portion for transmitting data to the remote control apparatus, and that the remote control apparatus has a receiving portion for receiving data transmitted from the receiver.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 and 10, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
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